

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-15

OPR-02 EB-11 RSR-01 /138 W

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P R 232321Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4995

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3275

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, MILI

SUBJ: CABINET SPECULATION GROWS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: A) SANTIAGO 3243, B) SANTIAGO 3240, C) SANTIAGO 3057

1. SUMMARY. SPECULATION GROWING THAT CABINET RESTRUCTURING, PERHAPS WITH ARMED FORCES INCLUSION, MAY BE IN PREPARATION- BUT OPPOSITION TO THIS IN GOVERNMENT PARTIES ALSO REPORTED TO BE VERY STRONG. PRES ALLENDE REPORTEDLY CONTINUED MEETING OVER WEEKEND WITH UP LEADERS. MILITARY CARRIED OUT SEVERAL ARMS RAIDS AND CUT EXPRESSED DISCONTENT OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF ARMS CONTROL LAW. END SUMMARY.

2. OPPOSITION RADIO STATIONS REPORT MONDAY JULY 23 THAT ALLENDE CONTINUED MEETINGS WITH UP LEADERS THROUGHOUT WEEKEND. CONFERENCES CONTINUE TO FOMENT SPECULATION ABOUT CABINET CHANGES (REF A). NO FIRM INDICATION AS YET WHEN ALLENDE PLANNING TO ADDRESS NATION, BUT PRESIDENT QUOTED IN AFTERNOON PRESS TODAY AS SAYING TO NEWSMEN TOMORROW OR WEDNESDAY. ARMA REPORTS THAT OVER WEEKEND TWO MILITARY OFFICERS AND CIVILIAN ALLEGED MILITARY WOULD "HAVE EVERYTHING BUT THE PRESIDENCY BY WEDNESDAY."

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(COMMENT: THIS SORT OF THING HAS BEEN SAID BEFORE.) IN JULY 23

PRIVATE CONVERSATION, HIGH RANKING PDC'ER SAID THAT THREEE CINCS-
PRODDED BY FELLOW OFFICERS-RECOGNIZE "SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO CHANGE

PRESENT DRIFT OF EVENTS," AND ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH
ALLENDE "FOR EIGHT OR NINE SEATS." SOURCE STATED THAT PRATS IS
INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER DISSENSION AT MID-GRADE OFFICER
LEVELS. VARIOUS UP ELEMENTS REPORTEDLY FIGHTING TOOTH
AND NAIL AGAINST ANY REAL SHARING OF POWER WITH THE MILITARY.

3. GEN PRATS RECENTLY TOLD US THAT PRECONDITION FOR MILITARY
ENTRANCE INTO CABINET WOULD BE ALLENDE-PDC "TRUCE" BASED UPON
CONSENSUS POLITICAL POLICY. PDC REPORTED PREPARED TO ANSWER
EXPECTED PRESIDENTIAL PLEA FOR COOPERATION IN HIS AWAITED SPEECH
WITH AGREEMENT TO DIALOGUE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS IF MILITARY
PRESENT. JUNE 22 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SPONSORED AND LED
BY CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP OF SANTIAGO, PROVIDED WEEKEND OPPORTUNITY
FOR UP TO INVOKE CHURCH'S NAME IN CALL FOR CONVERSATIONS.

4. THERE ARE ASLO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT LEON VILARIN'S TRUCK
OWNER'S ASSOCIATION MAY GO ON STRIKE THURSDAY AND
ENGAGE IN HIGHWAY SABOTAGE. REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL TRANSPORT
OWNERS ASSOCIATION (TRUCKS, BUSES, TAXIS) MET IN SANTIAGO
OVER WEEKEND. HOWEVER, PERHAPS OWING TO GROUP'S HETEROGENEITY,
FACT TRUCK OWNERS' ONLY FRACTION OF CONGRESS DELEGATES, OR
ONLY SLIGHTLY VEILED GOVT THREATS OF REPRISALS IN CASE OF STRIKES,
CONVENTION LIMITED ITSELF TO CALL UPON GOVT TO COMPLY WITH PROMISES
MADE AT CONCLUSION OCTOBER SHUTDOWN AND GAVE GOVT 15 DAYS TO
BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS OR GUILDS "WILL
ADOPT NECESSARY MEASURES."

5. MILITARY STAGED SEVERAL ARMS RAIDS OVER WEEKEND, THOUGH
NONE IN SANTIAGO. ARMY LOOKED FOR MUNITIONS IN SAN ANTONIO
WHILE NAVY SEARCHED CONCEPCION AREA PHOSPHATE FACTORY. PDC
BEGAN NEW PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN OVER WEEKEND WITH ADS IN OPPOSITION
PRESS FEATURING MILITARY MEN ON PARADE OVER HEADLINE READING
"ARMS ONLY FOR THE ARMED FORCES." MEANWHILE, CUT LEADERSHIP,
EVIDENTLY MIFFED BY ARMY RAID ON OSORNO HEADQUARTERS (REF B),
MET WITH MININT BRIONES TO EXPRESS CUT'S CONCERN THAT ALL RAIDS
SO FAR HAVE BEEN AGAINST "STATE INDUSTRIES, LABOR UNIONS, AND
WORKERS' AREAS" (POBLACIONES) AND NONE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED AGAINST
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PATRIA Y LIBERTAD OR OTHER "SEDITIONOUS GROUPS." PRESS REPORTS
CUT PRES FIGUEROA SAID MILITARY ACTIONS ARE "PLACING WORKERS
IN STATE OF INDEFENSIBILITY" AND ASKED BRIONES TO INTRODUCE
MODIFICATIONS TO LAW TO PROTECT WORKERS AGAINST HARASSMENT
ON BASIS OF IRRESPONSIBLE DENUNCIATIONS.

6. IN ITS CONVENTION, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PURCHASING
CENTERS (MADE UP OF 120 SMALL AGENCIES WHICH BUY GOODS FOR

EVENTUAL DISTRIBUTION BY CENADI, THE MERCHANT-OWNED DISTRIBUTION COMPANY) CALLED UPON THE PUBLIC TO PROTECT CENADI AND CONGRESS TO REJECT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD CREATE NATIONAL AGENCY MERCHANTS TERMED "MONOPOLISTIC AND TOTALITARIAN" IN INTENT. MERCHANTS' GROUP ALSO REFRAINED FROM ISSUING SPECIFIC STRIKE OR SHUTDOWN ULTIMATUM.
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